

Opinion 2391 (Case 3660) – *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827 (currently *Gazella arabica*; Mammalia, Ruminantia): conservation of part of the lectotype designated by Neumann (1906)

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

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Abstract. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has used its plenary power to set aside the lectotype status of a skull of *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827, retaining only a skin as the sole lectotype specimen.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Mammalia; Ruminantia; BOVIDAE; *Gazella arabica*; *Gazella arabica rueppelli*; *Gazella gazella*; *Gazella dorcas*; gazelles; central Arabia; southern Arabia.

Ruling

- (1) The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has used its plenary power to set aside the lectotype status of the skull ZMB_MAM_2115 in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin of the name *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827, retaining only the skin ZMB_MAM_2115 as the sole lectotype specimen;
- (2) the name *arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827, as published in the binomen *Antilope arabica* and as defined solely by the lectotype skin ZMB_MAM_2115 in the Museum für Naturkunde Berlin designated by Neumann (1906), as ruled in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

History of Case 3660

An application to maintain usage of the specific name of the gazelle *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827 was received from Eva Verena Bärmann (*Museum für Naturkunde, Leibniz-Institut für Evolutions- und Biodiversitätsforschung, Berlin, Germany*), Alan W. Gentry (*Earth Sciences Department, Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) and Anthea Gentry (*Life Sciences Department, Natural History Museum, London, U.K.*) on 11 April 2014. After correspondence the Case was published in BZN 71(2): 88–94 on 30 June 2014 (Bärmann et al., 2014). The title, abstract and keywords of the Case were published on the Commission's website. Two comments in support of the application were published in BZN 71(4): 253 on 20 December 2014 (Groves, 2014; Scharnhölz, 2014). Three additional letters in support of this application were also received, and notice of their receipt was published in BZN 71(4): 254 on 20 December 2014.

The Case was sent for vote on 1 December 2015 (VP 27). A greater than two-thirds majority of Commissioners voted FOR the Case (23 For, 1 Against).

Decision of the Commission

At the close of the voting period on 1 March 2016 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes – 23: Aescht, Alonso-Zarazaga, Ballerio, Bogutskaya, Bouchard, Bourgoïn, Dmitriev, Evenhuis, Grygier, Halliday, Harvey, Kojima, Krell, Kullander, Lamas, Pape, Rheindt, Rosenberg, Welter-Schultes, Winston, Yanega, Zhang and Zhou.

Negative votes – 1: Kottelat.

Ng, Pyle and van Tol were on leave of absence.

Voting FOR, Rosenberg stated that the definitions of holotype and lectotype both require a single specimen. In the case of a holotype discovered to be composite, Article 73.1.5 allows part of the designated material to retain status as the holotype rather than reverting to a syntype. There is no corresponding article for lectotypes, so the lectotype designation for *Antilope arabica* is invalid, not being based on a single specimen, and the specimens remain syntypes. Therefore the Commission should have been requested to act under the specific rather than the plenary power as there is no valid lectotype designation to suppress.

Voting AGAINST, Kottelat stated that the Commission did not need to be involved as the authors could have taken the necessary action to resolve the issue on their own.

Original descriptions

The following are the original descriptions to the entries on either an Official List or an Index in the ruling given in the present Opinion:

arabica, *Antilope*, Lichtenstein, 1827: unnumbered caption to pl. 6.

References

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- Groves, C.P.** 2014. Comments on *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827 (currently *Gazella arabica*; Mammalia, Ruminantia): proposed conservation of part of the lectotype designated by Neumann (1906). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(4): 253.
- Lichtenstein, H.** 1827. *Darstellung neuer oder wenig bekannter Säugethiere in Abbildungen und Beschreibungen nach den Originalen des zoologischen Museums der Universität zu Berlin*. [Zweites Heft]. Pls. 6–10; without signatures or pagination. Lüderitz, Berlin.
- Neumann, O.** 1906. Über einige Gazellen und Kuhantilopen. *Sitzungsberichte der Gesellschaft Naturforschender Freunde zu Berlin*, **1906**: 237–247.
- Scharnhölz, R.** 2014. Comments on *Antilope arabica* Lichtenstein, 1827 (currently *Gazella arabica*; Mammalia, Ruminantia): proposed conservation of part of the lectotype designated by Neumann (1906). *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*, **71**(4): 253.